



Southeast News

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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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FROM THE CONFERENCE MINISTER

"The Abundant Life"

"We've been married two months. A gift you gave us in the church was a book to fill in our 'firsts' -- our first trip, first fight, first big purchase.

"We haven't bought a house or a car -- but when we considered this building campaign for our new church, we decided this would be our 'first big purchase.'"

This moving testimony of a young man at our Huntsville United Church of Christ characterizes a commitment of joy and considered sacrifice.

No church is ever built without such commitment!

We have received innumerable calls from many churches and conferences in the United Church of Christ about "helping our sister churches and members devastated by Hugo."

Your contributions are divided equally between Plymouth Congregational Church and Circular Congregational Church. Last week, the Conference sent a check to each church for about \$1,400.00 -- and more contributions are coming in!

The generous hearts and pocketbooks that we share in mission to meet needs is reminiscent of the early churches in the Book of Acts when they all gave to help the churches in Jerusalem.

Churches that are involved in mission and support mission to the world are churches that live and grow. Churches that do not live beyond themselves die!

Several churches in the Southeast Conference are beginning to grow, as new members bring new life and changes to the churches. It is so evident that no church grows without personal contact and calling. And churches have to be located where people who will attend them live today!

Jesus Christ came that we might have the abundant life and gave us the church as a fellowship to experience the new humanity.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVES COVENANT PROPOSAL TO UCC EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Board of Directors of the Southeast Conference approved at its meeting on Sept. 29-30 a covenant proposal to the Executive Council of the United Church of Christ.

Under the covenant proposal, the Council and various instrumentalities of the UCC would provide the Conference assistance in several areas vital to its life.

Among proposed assistance to the Conference is funding for a half-time staff person in church development; increased subsidies for new church starts; stewardship training and programs; temporary administrative support; and an evangelism institute.

The covenant proposal is the result of nine months of consultation between the Southeast Conference and the national instrumentalities.

Comprised of seven representatives from the Executive Council and instrumentalities and nine representatives from the Conference, the Consultation Team met in Atlanta on three occasions: December 11-12, 1988; March 2, 1989; and May 22, 1989.

In addition, two separate consultations were held on stewardship on August 6-7; and on church development on September 8-9.

The Executive Council is expected to meet in late October to vote on the covenant proposal.

The Board of Directors in its September meeting at Pilgrimage United Church of Christ in Marietta, Ga., also approved as

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HUGO STRIKES CHARLESTON

Through Church World Service, the United Church of Christ was almost immediately on the scene in coastal South Carolina after Hurricane Hugo struck September 22.

A UCC pastor, William Nix of Florida, is coordinating the recovery effort for

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A NEW COMMISSION IS BORN IN SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE: CHRISTIAN SOCIAL JUSTICE

We are proud to announce the birth of a new commission in the Southeast Conference: the Commission on Christian Social Justice.

Our task is to keep before you matters of social concern which affect not only our Conference family but our world family -- concerns which speak to peace and justice.

We have identified issues to highlight during this year: individual rights and freedoms, drug abuse, the family (violence, lifestyle), world hunger and actions impacting our environment.

If these are not enough for a year, we will be keeping you up-to-date on political issues and our church's response to them on national and world levels.

Today we want to acquaint you with two major boycotts. The boycott is an important tool for affecting social change, especially because we can easily make an individual contribution.

At the annual meeting in June of the Southeast Conference, we endorsed a boycott of Royal Dutch, Shell Oil, stemming from its continued heavy financial investment in South Africa.

The United Church Board for World Missions and the Office of Church in Society Directorate ask us to support a renewed boycott of all Nestle SA and American Home products to protest their continued distribution of breast milk substitutes in Third World areas, ignoring the ruling of the World Health Organization.

Nestle not only markets under the Nestle name but also Libby's, Carnation, Beech-Nut, Hills Brothers and Stouffers (including the hotels and restaurants).

American Home Products is extremely diverse: Advil, Anacin, Dristan, Anbesol, Sleepage, Preparation H, Demorex, Neet, Black Flag, Easy-Off, Woolite, Pam, 3-in-1 Oils, Plastic Wood, Sani-Flush, Chef Boyardee, Jiffy Pop, Gulf Lite, just to name a few products.

The concern over breast milk substitutes stems from the lack of reliable and safe water sources for concentrated formulas, and from the misuse that arises from impoverished mothers who overdilute the concentrate in an attempt to make it last longer. Both affect the health of infants,

who generally would be better served by drinking breast milk. Both companies market the product as a substitute for breast-feeding.

The boycott of Royal Dutch/Shell is because of their continued economic participation in South Africa, thereby helping to support the system of apartheid in the mostly black country.

At the annual meeting, three commission members were elected:

John Lackey, pastor of the Church of the Savior, Knoxville, Tenn. 37909;

Mollie Reed, member of First Congregational Church of Montgomery, Ala. 36106;

Judy Manning, chair and a member of Central Congregational Church of Atlanta, Ga. 30329.

We invite you to write us regarding your own peace and social justice concerns.

The Commission on Christian Social Justice has tried to be present at each Association meeting in September and October in order to acquaint you with our plans for the year and the dates for all activities.

This is the calendar for the Commission on Christian Social Justice:

Nov. 4-5, Saturday and Sunday: Atlanta Youth Cluster at Atlanta United Church of Christ.

Nov. 26, Sunday: Pulpit Exchange.

February 18, 1990, Sunday: Hunger Luncheon.

Commission meetings are held on Friday afternoons preceding meetings of the Board of Directors of the Conference. The next meetings of the Commission will occur on Friday, Jan. 19, and Friday, April 4.

Judy Manning
Chair

PRAYER SCHEDULE FOR CONFERENCE CHURCHES

This is the calendar of prayer for November for churches in the Conference:

- * November 5: Lanett C.C. Church
Lafayette Pleasant Grove
- * November 12: Knoxville Church of Savior
Wartburg Deer Lodge Church
- * November 19: Sweetwater First Church
Daisy Community Church
- * November 26: Atlanta First Church
Atlanta Carroll Heights

Remember these churches in your worship.

CONFERENCE CALENDER

November 3-4: Retreat for Commission of Church and Ministry, and for all Association church and ministry committees.

January 15, 1990: Conference closes financial books for 1989.

January 19-20, 1990: Conference Board of Directors meeting (Jan. 26-27 snow date).

February 16-17: Pre-Retirement workshop for ministry.

March 30, 1990: Evangelism Institute conducted by the Board of Homeland Ministries for the Southeast Conference. First of a three-year series. (Will fall either Thursday to Saturday; or Friday to Sunday.)

April 6-7, 1990: Conference Board of Directors meets.

May 7-9, 1990: Retreat for pastors and spouses.

June 8-10, 1990: Annual meeting of the Southeast Conference.

June 25-29, 1990: UCC Experience 1990: "Faith Works."

NOMINATING COMMITTEE DEVELOPING REPORT

The Nominating Committee of the Southeast Conference is requesting that churches submit names soon for possible Conference positions.

The Committee has begun to develop its report for 1990, and asks that names be sent to the Conference office.

It is important to participate and so that we will have able leaders to serve and to grow in the Conference.

FROM THE CONFERENCE MINISTER

(Continued for Page 1)

How heartening to see evidence of the new life in Christ in our churches.

God continue to bless you and us all together.

Faithfully,
Roger Knight

HUGO STRIKES CHARLESTON

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Church World Service in Charleston, and he arrived almost immediately after the hurricane hit the city.

He reports that of October 16, that the

hurricane caused \$6 billion in destruction in South Carolina, and 120,000 to 140,000 homes require repair work. In addition, 62,855 families were affected, and 3,351 homes were destroyed (including 1,855 single family, 1,393 mobile and 103 apartments).

In the tri-counties around Charleston, 125 \$10,000 checks have been given in emergency help, as well as other family grants.

Rev. Nix said Interfaith groups have been formed throughout the state with most religious groups participating.

The Conference also has established to assist our new churches in the city, Circular Congregational Church and Plymouth Congregational Church.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVES COVENANT

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a working document a 10-year church development plan for the Conference as part of the covenant proposal.

The document outlines how the Conference intends to develop its programs and plans for church development.

It calls for the development and allocation of resources to establish 15 new churches over the next 10 years, as well as to fund the renewal of 5 existing churches in crisis.

The outline also calls for the development of programs:

-- to assist with staff work churches in self-renewal and revisioning, and the creation of evangelism and faith programs.

-- to support and train future pastors, and for the specialized training of present pastors.

-- to create ongoing and capital financial support for church development.

-- to make advance site acquisitions.

-- to provide temporary and long-term financial assistance to churches in some situations.

-- to encourage and attract churches to affiliate with the UCC.

The covenant proposal calls for BHM to fund for five years a half-time person in church development, and to train that person.

It also calls for BHM to assume a greater financial role in new church starts, starting with 75 percent of the costs of the first three churches.

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

Huntsville United Church of Christ in Huntsville, Ala., raised \$291,000 of its \$250,000 goal to finance a new church sanctuary. The capital campaign was held September 23-30 with the assistance of Bea Starett of the United Church Board for Homeland ministries.

First United Church of Christ in Belvidere, Tenn., welcomed Michael Small as its new pastor on October 8. Rev. Small is married to Sheila Small, and they have one child, Micah.

First United Church, UCC, of Nashville, Tenn., hosted the annual meeting of the Alabama-Tennessee Association on Sept. 15-16, and then the next day, Sunday, hosted 100 United Church of Christ members from Texas who were on tour.

Deer Lodge Congregational Church, UCC, part of the Morgan County Parish in Wartburg, Tenn., is seeking funds to purchase an available parsonage. The Morgan County Parish is partly funded by the Southeast Conference.

The following churches are seeking pastors or staff persons: Central Congregational Church, UCC, of Atlanta, an assistant pastor; Church of the Good Shepherd in Crossville, Tenn., a pastor; Midway Congregational Church, UCC, of Midway, Ga., a pastor; First Congregational Church of Savannah, Ga., a pastor; Pilgrimage United Church of Christ of Marietta, Ga., a pastor; and United Community Church of Waverly, Tenn., a pastor.

Emmett Floyd is serving as interim pastor of Pilgrimage United Church of Christ while that church conducts its search for a new pastor.

Richard Ward, a member of Central Congregational Church, UCC, Atlanta, and assistant professor at Candler School of Theology, was ordained as a UCC minister on

Sunday, October 15, at Canon Chapel of Emory University.

WAVERLY CHURCH WELCOMED TO UCC

An energetic band of Christians in Waverly, Tenn., in January 1988. Soon they were served by a youthful retired UCC pastor, Talmage Hartmann.

Before long they had purchased 5½ acres on the bypass, and build a new "log cabin" church as their first building, which was dedicated in May 1989.

At the September meeting of the Alabama-Tennessee Association, the United Community Church of Waverly was received into membership of the United Church of Christ.

UPLANDS ANNOUNCES CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Uplands Retirement Village in Pleasant Hill, Tennessee, announced in August a campaign to raise \$868,565 for the the renovation and refurbishing of the May Cravath Wharton Nursing Home.

The announcement was made in ceremonies on the grounds of the Uplands Community Center during a ice cream social sponsored by the Pleasant Hill Community Church, UCC.

The 32-year-old building urgently needs an air-conditioning system as well as improvements in heating, lighting, flooring, windows and insulation.

The Rev. Howard Palm has been appointed to chair the fund-raising campaign.

To date, advance gifts total \$262,160. The three-year campaign is scheduled to be completed by June 1990, with renovation work beginning the next month.

Uplands is a member of UCC Council for Health and Human Services. It was founded by May Cravath Wharton, who died in 1959. It is located in Pleasant Hill, Tenn.

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